

Two were injured in an unexplained explosion which destroyed a warehouse, Barbara, Calif. Here, firemen carry one of bottles recovered from heated heating gas from a leaking pipe may have been exploded by the

## Rail Veteran Retires After Long Service

Theodore J. Hegeman, 465 Simms street, well known Burlington official, will retire December 31 after 45 years of service with the C. B. & Q.

Mr. Hegeman, who has been superintendent of the reclamation plant at Eola for the past 20 years, started his career with the "Q" on July 10, 1900, at Keokuk, Ia. He was employed at that time as a clerk. After that he held positions of increasing importance and responsibility. In 1903 he was a clerk in the general offices in Chicago. From there he went to West Burlington, Ia. In 1907 he was made chief clerk to the storekeeper at Galesburg. From 1909 to 1915 he was storekeeper at Alliance, Neb. In 1916 he was at Beardstown, and then in 1917 he went back to West Burlington, this time as a storekeeper. From 1918 to 1926 he was on the road as traveling storekeeper. In 1926 he came to the reclamation plant at Eola where he has served ever since. After his retirement he will be succeeded by W. G. Muschler, now district storekeeper at Galesburg.

Mr. Hegeman said today that he plans to reside in Aurora after his retirement. However, he is planning on taking a long looked forward to vacation trip with his wife immediately after retiring.

## Ford to Be Closed by Parts Shortage

Detroit, Dec. 27.—(AP)—The Ford Motor company announced today it will close down again next Saturday for four days because of a parts shortage.

The company's plants were closed down last Saturday for the same reason, idling approximately 80,000 workers.

## Found Frozen to Death in River Shack

### Police Hunt Relatives of Man Identified as Wil- liam Bowen

William Bowen, 51, a transient, was found frozen to death yesterday afternoon in a one room shack on the river bank at the rear of 464 North Broadway by two young men who went into the building in search of a match. The men, Ralph Zvanut, 870 Church road, and William Oltraver, 908 Church road, immediately reported to police that they had found the body of Bowen on a bed, completely clothed but without covers on the bed.

Zvanut and Oltraver told police that they had been walking along the river and were in the rear of the shack when they discovered they had no matches, and so decided to go into the shack to see if they could find some. When they opened the door, they related to police, they saw the body on the bed, and after trying to wake the man, discovered that he was frozen and presumably dead. Bowen was pronounced dead by the physician summoned by police.

On their return to the riverside shack for further investigation into the death last night, police found the one room hovel completely destroyed by fire.

An inquest into the death of Bowen, who is believed to have one or more relatives living in Aurora, will be held at 2:30 o'clock tomorrow afternoon at Downs Funeral home. Any of Bowen's relatives, or persons knowing his relatives, are asked to contact the Aurora police department.

The number of trapped men was not definitely known to estimates of officials ranged high as 50 but others believed figure would not exceed 20.

Last hopes of reaching the alive grew dimmer as 24 hours passed since the explosion, although not felt or heard a ground, turned the mine's timbers and walls into a jungle of wreckage.

### No Indication of Time

A company spokesman said there was no indication how much longer it might take to reach the end of the two to two and one mile long tunnel. Some miners said the cave-in might be reached today, but others said it was doubtful that the area could be reached short of two or three more days.

None of those close to the mine held out hopes that any of the trapped men would be reached alive. The general consensus of experts was that the chances of the miners could have been killed by the actual explosion or by carbon monoxide.

Flames were first encountered 3,100 feet from the mine entrance. State Highway Patrolman Al Hall reported. He said the men were believed trapped at the end of the two and one-half mile long mine.

The fire apparently had been burning since the explosion at 8:30 a. m. (est.) yesterday in a mine operated by the Kent Straight Creek Coal company.

Mine experts expressed belief that most of the men might have perished in the actual explosion. They added that gas fumes probably killed any who might have survived the underground explosion.

Sober-faced relatives of the trapped men stood at the entrance of the mine patiently awaiting news from the rescue teams.

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## Boy Home After Enjoying \$500 Chicago Spree

Pekin, Ill., Dec. 27.—(AP)—A 17-year-old runaway and his "part-time" cat frolicked belatedly their Christmas presents to their parents after a \$500 spree in Chicago.